

Training Program-MAPP/GPS

(Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting/Group Preparation & Selection)

So...you think you already know how to be a parent? Despite the fact that no one knows it all, you may have never parented children who have been abused and neglected. Parenting may be one of the hardest jobs in the world and it doesn't come with a job description. The purpose of MAPP is to prepare you to parent children that you didn't birth and to equip you with information and skills needed to cope with issues, behaviors and traits that you are unfamiliar with.

The 30 hour training and assessment are all part of the process to become licensed. The information received in this training is designed to enable participants to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will lead to successful foster and adoptive placements.

MAPP/GPS is a fun, exciting and interactive experience that you will walk away feeling as if you learned something from every class. 30 hours go by so fast that class members leave asking what they will do with their time now that the class is over. We respond "complete the licensing process."

Description of the Meetings and Curriculum

Meeting 1-**Welcome, Orientation and Get Acquainted**. Explanation of foster care, adoption and permanency planning. Roles and responsibilities of foster/adoptive parents and the agency.

Meeting 2-**Where MAPP leads. A Foster Care and Adoption Experience**-Overview of a foster care and adoption experience from the perspective of the clients (children, birth parents), foster parents, adoptive parents and child welfare workers.

Meeting 3-**Losses and Gains: The Need to be a Loss Expert**-Explores the impact of separation on the growth and development of children and the impact of foster care and adoptive placement on the emotions and behaviors of children and parents.

Meeting 4-**Helping Children with Attachments**-Explores the subject of attachment and child development. Focuses on how attachments are formed and the special needs of children in foster care and adoption (especially in the areas of building self-concept and appropriate behavior).

Meeting 5-**Helping Children Learn to Manage Their Behaviors**-Discusses techniques for managing behavior, with an emphasis on alternatives to physical punishment. This class tends to be very controversial as participants discuss their methods of discipline as well as methods used by their own parents. We have a "No Physical Punishment Policy" which has to be adhered to by every licensed parent.

Meeting 6-**Helping Children with Birth Family Connections**-Examines the importance of helping children in care maintain and build upon their identity, self concept, and connections. Considers issues such as how children's cultures and ethnic backgrounds help shape their identity; the connections children risk

losing when they enter care; and why visits and contact with birth families and previous foster families are important.

Meeting 7-**Gains and Losses: Helping Children Leave Foster Care**-Discusses family reunification as the primary case planning goal as well as alternatives like foster care, adoption and independent living. Examines disruption and its impact on children, families and agency staff.

Meeting 8-**Understanding the impact of Fostering or Adopting**-Take information from all previous meetings and help participants understand the impact of it all on the foster and adoptive families with regard to their marriage, children, relatives, friends, jobs and income.

Meeting 9-**Perspectives in Adoptive and Foster Parenting**-This meeting gives prospective families the opportunity to hear real life experiences from foster and adoptive families as well as foster and adoptive children. Participants get the chance to ask questions from families and youth. This is always a rewarding experience for all involved.

Meeting 10-**Endings and Beginnings**-This meeting assess the participants strengths and needs as foster parents or adoptive parents. Applications are completed at this time, if not already submitted. A graduation takes place ending this process and interested participants begins the process to become a licensed foster family. Appointments for first home visits can be made at this time.